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Application No. 10/718,614
Reply to Office Action of September 7, 2006

Docket No.: 615388001US1

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (Previously presented) A method for conducting a vision examination by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders, comprising:

positioning a display medium at a predetermined distance from a patient's eyes, wherein the display medium is capable of individually and successively displaying optotypes of different sizes and shapes for enabling the examiner to assess a patient's visual acuity, and wherein the sizes of the optotypes are calibrated for display at the predetermined distance;

controlling the display medium to individually and successively present optotypes for the patient to view from the predetermined distance; and

for each optotype displayed to the patient, requesting the patient to find a matching optotype on a reference to confirm that the patient is able to see the optotype on the display medium.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the display medium is a computer-controlled screen.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the computer-controlled screen is portable.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the examiner controls the display of optotypes on the display medium by a remote control unit.

25. (Previously presented) A method of conducting a vision examination by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders, comprising:

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measuring a predetermined distance from the patient, wherein the predetermined distance is sufficient to evaluate distance vision;

positioning an electronic display medium at the predetermined distance from the patient's eyes, for individually and successively displaying optotypes of sizes calibrated for display at the predetermined distance, and wherein the optotypes are of different sizes to provide an indication of visual acuity at one of a plurality of particular vision levels;

controlling the electronic display medium to successively display an optotype and requesting the patient to identify the displayed optotype using a reference optotype, and continuing to display optotypes until a sufficient number has been displayed to screen the patient for a particular vision disorder.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the display medium is a liquid crystal display.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the patient can be screened for amblyopia by determining whether the patient can correctly match at least three out of four optotypes to a vision level of approximately 20/30.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein the examination is conducted with one eye covered at a time, and the predetermined distance is sufficient to screen a child's vision for amblyopia.

29. (Previously presented) A vision screening apparatus for use by an examiner for screening vision in a patient to detect vision disorders, comprising:

(a) a display medium for successively and individually displaying optotypes of varying sizes, calibrated to indicate an assessment of visual acuity, wherein the display medium is to be positioned at a predetermined distance from the patient; and

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(b) an optotype reference, to be positioned at a close distance from the patient to enable the patient to select an optotype on the reference that matches the optotype displayed on the display medium at a given time,

wherein the predetermined distance is at least a minimum distance from the patient to measure distance vision, and is less than a maximum distance by which the examiner can be in close proximity to both the display medium and the reference,

whereby the examiner monitors responses from the patient at the reference to determine whether the patient is able to see the optotypes displayed successively on the display medium.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the display medium is an electronic display.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the display medium is a flat panel display.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the flat panel display is an LCD monitor.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for conducting a vision examination by an examiner to screen a patient for vision disorders, comprising:

positioning a portable display medium at a predetermined distance from a patient's eyes that is capable of successively and individually displaying optotypes of different sizes and shapes for enabling the examiner to assess a patient's visual acuity, and wherein the sizes of the optotypes are calibrated for display at the predetermined distance;

presenting the optotypes from the display medium for the patient to view from the predetermined distance; and

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for each optotype displayed to the patient, requesting the patient to find a matching optotype on a reference to confirm that the patient is able to see the optotype on the display medium.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the examiner is positioned substantially between and within arm's reach of both the display medium and the patient, such that the examiner can shift between viewing either the displayed optotypes or the reference without substantially changing position.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the examination is conducted with one eye occluded at a time, and the predetermined distance is sufficiently close to screen a child's vision for amblyopia.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the examiner controls the display of optotypes on the display medium by a remote control unit.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the patient can be screened for amblyopia by determining whether the patient can correctly match at least three out of four optotypes to a vision level of approximately 20/30.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the examination is conducted with one eye covered at a time, and the predetermined distance is sufficient to screen a child's vision for amblyopia.